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Docket No. 2852-US-CNT

USSN 10/802,133

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A blocking antibody that binds to a human RANKL polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:13 and inhibits the binding of the human RANKL polypeptide to a human RANK polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:6.

14. (New) The blocking antibody of claim 13 that is a monoclonal antibody.

15. (New) A blocking antibody that binds to a fragment of a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 and inhibits the binding of the human RANKL polypeptide to a human RANK polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of

- a) an extracellular domain comprising amino acids 69-317 of SEQ ID NO:13, and
- b) a receptor binding domain comprising amino acids 162-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

16. (New) The blocking antibody of claim 15 that is a monoclonal antibody.

17. (New) A method of interfering with RANKL signaling comprising administering a blocking antibody, wherein the blocking antibody binds to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 and inhibits the binding of the human RANKL polypeptide to a human RANK polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:6.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the blocking antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

19. (New) A method of interfering with RANKL signaling comprising administering a blocking antibody, wherein the blocking antibody binds to a fragment of a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 and inhibits the binding of the human RANKL polypeptide to a human RANK polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of

- a) an extracellular domain comprising amino acids 69-317 of SEQ ID NO:13, and

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- b) a receptor binding domain comprising amino acids 162-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the blocking antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

21. (New) A method of inhibiting RANK-induced induction of NF-kB activity comprising administering an antagonistic monoclonal antibody, wherein the antibody binds to a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 and inhibits the binding of the human RANKL polypeptide to a human RANK polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:6.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the antagonistic antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

23. (New) The method of inhibiting RANK-induced induction of NF-kB activity comprising administering an antagonistic monoclonal antibody, wherein the antibody binds to a fragment of a human RANKL polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:13 and inhibits the binding of the human RANKL polypeptide to a human RANK polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, wherein the fragment is selected from the group consisting of

- a) an extracellular domain comprising amino acids 69-317 of SEQ ID NO:13,
and
b) a receptor binding domain comprising amino acids 162-317 of SEQ ID NO:13.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the antagonistic antibody is a monoclonal antibody.